



Liberty News

May 2000

a publication of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County

Presidential Candidates Speak at State Convention

by Ron Bain

All three Libertarian presidential candidates who attended the Colorado Libertarian convention in Denver on Sunday agreed that ending the income tax and abolishing the IRS would be top priorities if nominated and elected.

Also, for the first time, the campaigns of Harry Browne, Don Gorman and Barry Hess will all continue in support of the nominee, whichever of the three is nominated in July at the national convention in Anaheim, California.

Hess received standing ovations when he pledged to ultimately destroy the IRS database and when he revealed that the three presidential candidates have agreed to support each other through the November election. This represents an unprecedented level of cooperation among Libertarian presidential contenders not seen since the early 1980s.

Browne also received an ovation when he voiced his famous proposal to the American people: "Would you give up your favorite federal program if you never had to pay income tax again?" Eighty percent of the people his campaign has contacted say they would agree to this proposal, Browne said.

Gorman, who was leader of the elected four-person Libertarian caucus in the New Hampshire legislature in the early 1990s, said he led the Libertarian effort to reduce taxes in his home state and would now like to lead the Libertarian Party's national attempt to abolish the IRS.

Gorman also pledged, if nominated, to spend lots of time campaigning for local Libertarian candidates, such

as David Baker, the party's candidate for Colorado's 2nd Congressional District.

Browne, who received less than one percent of the national vote as the Libertarian presidential nominee in 1996, told the 120-person convention that he would not run an "invisible" campaign in 2000.

"My goal is that everyone in America knows what a Libertarian is," Browne stated. "They may think it's too good to be true, but I just want them to know that they would be better off."

Other areas of agreement among the candidates included calls to end the War on Drugs, lamentations on the Ponzi scheme known as Social Security and assertions that the Second Amendment would remain strong under a Libertarian administration.

"We've got to end the War on Drugs and begin a War on the War on Drugs," Hess stated to applause.

Gorman said that medical marijuana initiatives, such as the one which will appear on the Colorado ballot in 2000, were the way to make inroads toward full-scale legalization.

Browne wrapped up his presentation on an inspirational note, pledging to fulfill the promise inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, the party's symbol: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free..."

"We are going to see liberty in our lifetimes," Browne asserted. "We're going to get the free America we were promised."

LPBC Chairman Bain Accepts Job with Independence Institute

by Jon Ford

LPBC Chairman Ron Bain recently accepted a full-time job with the Golden, Colorado based nonprofit organization Independence Institute. His title will be Executive Assistant to the President/Office Manager, and he will work directly with president Jon Caldera on a daily basis. The position begins April 24.

Although primarily known as a conservative think tank, the Independence Institute often displays a strong libertarian streak in its position papers and press releases. The organization has championed the cause of liberty on a wide range of local, state, and national issues, including property and gun rights, school choice, and freedom of speech. Libertarians who have worked for or with the Institute include David Kopel, Ari Armstrong, and Dwight Filley.

"I'm sure I'll enjoy working at the Independence Institute," Bain said. "In some ways it's almost a dream come true. Now I'll be able to derive my primary income from political activism." He plans on using the opportunity to study the political style of Caldera, a sometimes acerbic but always articulate and intelligent political gadfly in the face of Colorado's overwhelmingly statist politicians and bureaucrats. Bain hopes he will eventually be able to draw upon his own professional experience in communications, writing, and media relations to contribute to the organization in these areas.

Bain will continue to serve as the LPBC chairman until the end of his term in July, at which point he will decide whether his schedule will permit running for reelection or taking on another position within the party. He plans to operate his resume-writing business, A Way With Words, on a part-time basis out of a home office.

QUOTABLE...

"A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always count on the support of Paul."

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW,

"EVERYBODY'S POLITICAL WHAT'S WHAT"

Letter: Boulder Proposals Violate Colorado and U.S. Constitutions

(The March 30 Daily Camera asked for reader response on the subject of proposed gun control ordinances for Boulder. The following letter was sent in response.)

I absolutely believe that no city council should attempt to pass ordinances that violate the state and national Constitutions! Shall I say I'm glad I don't live in Boulder but only work there? What part of "infringe" do the City Attorney and the council members not understand?

Lest some have not bothered to read it lately, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

Further, "Right to bear arms. The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question;" is the language included in the Constitution of the State of Colorado, Article II, Section 13.

I have just read again the language of these documents and I do not find anywhere language such as "except if one is traveling," which is a time one might be expected to need self-protection, or "except if one lives in Boulder, Colorado," or even "except if one lives in Colorado."

And, just imagine, when the U.S. Constitution was written, there was bitter debate about adding such language as is contained in the Bill of Rights because these natural rights were so evident to any thinking man that to enumerate them might diminish any other natural rights that they did not think to enumerate!

One of the things we need instead of "gun control" or, more properly "victim disarmament," is better education so people, including children understand and respect weapons. The perceived problem, that "guns" are a hazard and should be eliminated, is in truth a complicated problem that has developed over the past 35 - 40 years, and cannot be remedied with a quick fix like victim disarmament. If I attempt to address this matter fully, I will surely exceed your word limit for replies.

Lorene VanBuren
Lyons, Colorado

I Was Summoned for Jury Duty

by Tom Parker, LPBC Membership Director

I received a summons for jury duty in the mail recently. I called the phone number for instructions, and I showed up at the Boulder County Combined Courts on Canyon & 6th in Boulder. After passing through the metal detector, I reported to the designated room, along with about 60 others.

First they showed us a flashy video on what we could expect. Then we sat and waited. Then a judge came in and told us he "loved jurors." Then we sat and waited. Then about 30 of us were called and told to report to courtroom "L". Then we sat and waited. Then the judge talked to us a bit. Then they called 22 of us to sit in the jury box and be questioned.

The two lawyers and the judge asked us questions and also asked us to volunteer any information that might affect our ability to be an impartial juror. They they asked us some very personal questions: Where do you live, where do you work, are you married/single, what do you do in your spare time. Several jurors offered up whether they had significant others.

They asked us if we or anyone in our family had committed or been a victim of a crime. One juror mentioned that his parents had been convicted of narcotics trafficking. One juror asked to testify in private (as they mentioned we could do). When he came back out, he left the room (apparently excused by the judge) and another person was brought in to bring us back to 22.

It gradually became clear what this trial was about. An Hispanic, who was being arrested, spit on a police officer. Several of the jurors questioned the need for this entire process for someone accused of just spitting. The judge said the defendant had requested a jury trial.

The judge made it clear that we were to rule only on whether the prosecution proved its case beyond a "reasonable doubt." We were *not* to take into consideration the validity of the law itself. If we didn't like the law we should take it up with the legislature -- not question it here.

Remembering what I had learned as a Libertarian about "fully informed juries," I mentioned that I *would* take into consideration the justice of the law itself. (Though in this case, I think the law is just, as spitting on someone seems an initiation of "force", albeit the defendant was being arrested at the time.)

They asked us another interesting question: Would we

tend to give more weight to to a witness if he was a police officer?

The lawyers then each picked 5 jurors to be excused on a "pre-emptory" basis, because they had to whittle the 22 potential jurors down to 12. Finally, they called out the names of the 12 who would be on the jury. The other 10, including me, were excused. Was it because of my pro-FIJA answer? Was it because they had to pick to whittle down? I guess I'll never know.

Note: If you'd like more info about the jury system, see the Fully Informed Jury Association web site at www.fija.org and especially their "Juror's Handbook" at www.fija.org/juror-handbook.html

Libertarian Online Guide

National Libertarian Party
www.lp.org

Colorado Libertarian Party
www.cybercell.net/~lpcolorado

Boulder County Libertarian Party
www.lpboulder.com

Harry Browne for President 2000
www.HarryBrowne.org

David Baker for Congress 2000
www.baker2k.com

Advocates for Self Government
www.self-gov.org

QUOTABLE...

"Civilization is the progress toward a society of privacy. The savage's whole existence is public, ruled by the laws of his tribe. Civilization is the process of setting man free from men."

- AYN RAND, "THE FOUNTAINHEAD"

Libertarian 101

Comparing the Issues: Part Two

This concludes our series of Q&A's illustrating some philosophical differences among Liberals, Conservatives, and Libertarians.

*[Note: All the following material was excerpted from the book, **Libertarianism in One Lesson** by David Bergland, with permission from the author. This excellent book is available for \$10 from the Libertarian Party, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100, Washington D.C. 20037; phone (202) 333-0008; www.lp.org]*

11. Should the U.S. government send foreign aid to other countries?

Liberal: Yes, to help poor in third world and developing countries which have good human rights records.

Conservative: Yes, to help those governments trying to resist communism or trying to convert from socialism to democracy.

Libertarian: No. American taxpayers should not be forced to pay to support other governments at all.

12. Should the United States government continue to participate in and support the United Nations?

Liberal: Yes, because it is the last best hope for peace.

Conservative: Yes, but only if it will take a more pro-American stance.

Libertarian: Not as presently constituted and financed by tax dollars. A voluntarily financed forum for international discussions would not be objectionable.

13. Should young Americans be compelled to serve in some capacity in the name of "national service"?

Liberal: Yes, everyone has the obligation to serve others for social welfare.

Conservative: Yes, when it can be justified for national defense purposes.

Libertarian: No. Slavery is slavery regardless of whether it is masked by the euphemism of "draft" or "national service".

14. Should the U.S. government help American businesses through hard economic times with low interest loans?

Liberal: Yes. This will save jobs and American workers need all the help they can get during a recession or depression.

Conservative: Yes. Government should help business stay in business. That's free enterprise.

Libertarian: No. Government can only help some businesses by stealing from taxpayers and other businesses. No one has the right to be subsidized at the expense of others.

15. The Social Security system keeps going bankrupt. Is there a long term solution to the problems of the Social Security system?

Liberal: We will need to keep increasing the taxes because older people are entitled to retire with dignity.

Conservative: We need to reduce benefits, make the system more efficient, and make the age of retirement later to salvage it.

Libertarian: The Social Security bankruptcy requires we end the system by granting older workers and retirees the choice of a lump sum payment or private

(Continued on page 5...)

Libertarian 101 *(continued from p. 4)*

insurance annuity to replace future Social Security benefits. Ending the bankrupt system will relieve younger workers of the tax and avoid the economic collapse which will surely result from increasing Social Security taxes.

16. Should children be required by law to attend school?

Liberal: Yes, otherwise parents could not be entrusted to provide for their children's education.

Conservative: Yes, otherwise children will not be educated as required for national defense and to compete effectively in business with foreign companies.

Libertarian: No. Compulsory attendance laws violate the rights of parents and children to decide for themselves on educational programs.

17. Should parents be allowed to teach their children at home rather than having them attend schools approved by the state?

Liberal: No. Some parents would teach their children bigotry and unscientific, bizarre religious doctrines.

Conservative: A grudging yes. Although some parents would fail to give their children the proper moral education with home schooling, it appears the public schools are hopeless for parents who want their children to have proper religious and moral education.

Libertarian: Yes. The government has no proper role in education. There should be no government penalties or regulation of parents who prefer to teach their children at home.

18. Should the ownership of firearms be prevented or restricted by law?

Liberal: Yes. No one but law enforcement and the military should be allowed to own guns.

Conservative: Some limitations on handguns and military "assault rifles" would be appropriate, but not otherwise.

Libertarian: Ownership of a firearm violates no other person's rights, and therefore should not be subject to any criminal penalty or government restriction. It is

the aggressive use of firearms that should be punished, not responsible ownership.

19. What should government policy be regarding health care?

Liberal: Health care is a right. The federal government should ensure free health care, or at least insurance, for everyone. Government must control fees charged by doctors, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies.

Conservative: Medicare entitlements must be controlled and limits should be put on medical malpractice lawsuits. Business and individuals should get more tax breaks for medical expenses.

Libertarian: Socialist approaches are already destroying our medical system. End the doctor's monopoly. Let midwives, nurses, etc. provide medical service and allow patients to medicate themselves. Deregulate hospitals and medical insurance. Replace Medicare with voluntary private funding for the needy.

20. What should government policy be toward abortion?

Liberal: A woman has the right to an abortion, and if she can't afford it, taxpayers should subsidize her abortion.

Conservative: Abortion is murder and should be subject to appropriate criminal penalties, except, perhaps, in the case of rape or incest.

Libertarian: Under no circumstances should government force anyone to subsidize another's abortion. Many libertarians and the Libertarian Party platform hold that there should be no legal penalties for a woman who decides to terminate her pregnancy. Other libertarians hold that abortion does involve a violation of rights and should be illegal.

QUOTABLE...

"If you want a picture of the future,
imagine a boot stamping on a
human face -- forever."

- GEORGE ORWELL, "1984"

Libertarians Select New State Board

by *Ron Bain*

In Convention, the Libertarian Party of Colorado selected its new Board of Directors on Sunday, April 16. The nine party officers officially started their one-year terms at the conclusion of the annual convention.

Returning as State Chair is BetteRose Smith of Glendale. She is the chief executive officer of the party, chairs all meetings, coordinates the actions of the board, and is the official party spokesperson.

The Campaigns Director is Norm Olsen of Northglenn. He is responsible for candidate recruitment, issue development, and coordinating all political campaigns.

The Outreach Director is Brian Rachocki of Castle Rock. He is responsible for recruiting members, developing education programs, and supporting affiliate parties.

The Publications Director is Ari Armstrong of Westminster. He is responsible for publishing the state newsletter, *Colorado Liberty*, any other needed publications, and for the party's website.

The Public Information Director is John K. Berntson of Colorado Springs. He is responsible for external communications, news releases, and coordinating news media contacts.

The Information Director is David Bryant of Denver. He is responsible for the membership database and coordinating membership data with the National LP.

The Legislative Director is Tom Goonan of Golden. He is responsible for monitoring the Colorado Legislature and coordinating with like-minded organizations on legislation issues.

The Treasurer is Johanna Fallis of Arvada. She is responsible for the party's financial affairs and for maintaining financial records and budgets.

The Fundraising Director is Michelle Konieczny of Westminster. She is responsible for establishing and operating fundraising activities.

State Chair Smith welcomed each member to the board and looks forward to an exciting and productive election year.

State Convention Highlights

by *Tom Parker*

The Colorado LP State Convention was held April 14 though April 16 at the Best Western Executive Hotel in Denver.

It was a great convention, with a top-notch lineup of speakers, including the three leading presidential contenders (see front page article), along with many other dignitaries, including Bill Masters (Sheriff with strong LP leanings), Vin Suprynowicz (editorial writer and author of "Send in the Waco Killers"), Dave Boaz (Cato, author), Earle Allen, David Segal, and many others.

There were lots of discussion sessions, videos, literature, and displays. State LP elections were held and national convention delegates were chosen.

LPBC'ers were well-represented at the convention:

- k **Ron Bain** gave a seminar on desktop publishing. He also ran for state board position of Public Information Director, but came up a few votes short.
- k **Dave Baker** shmoozed with everyone, including Harry Browne. He won endorsement for his candidacy for U.S. House.
- k **Bryan Griffin**, never one to miss a meal, showed up in time for the Gala Banquet dinner.
- k The ubiquitous **Joe Johnson** and **Elizabeth Bennett** set up their highly regarded LP booth. They both won awards for all their great efforts. Joe also gave an inspirational talk to the attendees.
- k **Tom Parker** won a raffle for a huge Harry Browne lawn sign, and took a bunch of pictures.
- k **Judd Ptak** was in attendance and asked a lot of good questions.
- k **Mark Robbins** attended the Gala Banquet (and got a vegetarian meal with no vegetables!).

(Continued on page 8...)

First-rate Libertarian Gun Show Booth: *Volunteers Needed!*

by *Chuck Wright*

If you didn't see our all new booth at the Tanner Gun Show March 18th and 19th, you missed seeing the most professionally designed booth the LP of Colorado has ever produced.

It has professionally displayed libertarian books and LP pamphlets, LP banners that are visible from half way across the gun show floor, libertarian quotes and the Worlds Smallest Political Quiz are prominently displayed, and it's large enough that people can actually walk into the booth and be surrounded on three sides by libertarianism. It's truly a sight to behold and something that every LP of Colorado member can be proud of.

What really surprised me most about administering the World's Smallest Political Quiz at the Tanner Gun Show was the large proportion of quiz takers who ended up in the libertarian quadrant. When I've given the quiz previously in Boulder, the responses were about equally divided between liberal and libertarian, and there was a definite left shift even within the libertarian quadrant itself. I expected the quiz to yield a mirror image of Boulder at the Tanner Gun Show with a strong right shift. I was pleasantly surprised to instead discover that libertarians dominate the Tanner Gun Show.

What a wonderful opportunity we have if only we could turn those gun show libertarians into Libertarian Party members and registered Libertarians.

We're not going to let this opportunity slip by.

We've put together the most professionally designed LP booth in the history of the LP of Colorado. The professionalism of our booth will earn the LP a reputation as being a first-rate, professionally run organization. And people are more likely to be attracted to and join a group that's professionally run.

The only thing that's missing from our booth is you.

There is still time to volunteer to help run our booth at the up coming Tanner Gun Show April 29-30 and June 3-4, and the "Crossroads of the West" Gun Show June 10-11. We'll provide you with everything you need including free admission to the show.

Tanner will be held at the Denver Merchandise Mart (in the Mart Pavilion) at I-25 and 58th. Crossroads will be held at the Holiday Inn at I-70 and Chambers Road in Aurora (just east of Denver).

To volunteer, simply e-mail me at **cawrigh@attglobal.net** or call me at **(303) 666-0509** and indicate the date you'd like to volunteer. If you have a preference on time slot, please choose either 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM or 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

We'll send all volunteers more detailed information about the show when you volunteer. Thanks for your support!

Liberty News

Published monthly by the Libertarian Party of Boulder County. Subscription is included in LPBC membership, which is \$15 for one year (See membership form on page 9).

Send all newsletter contributions, correspondence, and advertising inquiries to Stephen Funk at funks@peakarts.org or 6822 Countryside Lane #290, Niwot, CO 80503

Editor: Stephen V. Funk

Contributors: Ron Bain, Jon Ford, Tom Parker, Lori VanBuren, Chuck Wright

Tax Day Protest Descends on Post Office

by Steve Funk

Several LPBC members participated in the annual Tax Day protest on Monday, April 17th at the Main Boulder Post Office on 15th and Walnut starting at 4:30 p.m. and lasting well into the evening.

The event, which has become a nationwide Libertarian Party tradition of sorts, was an excellent opportunity to distribute thousands of pieces of LP literature to a targeted audience: the inevitable continuous stream of last-minute Income Tax filers. The lovely sunny Spring weather was an added bonus, increasing overall foot traffic in the area.

Protesters were met with a combination of indifference, amusement, curiosity, and genuine interest as they passed out a variety of LP material to taxpayers. The visibility of the event was helped by Elizabeth Bennett who stormed on the scene with signs declaring "**Enough is Enough -- Vote Libertarian!**" Dariush Rusta also appeared to help with the event.

Chuck Wright and Kevin Wilkerson distributed the notorious LP Million Dollar Bills. These attention-getting items resemble oversized \$1,000,000 Federal Reserve notes on the front side. On the reverse they explain that the Federal Government spends about \$1 million every five seconds -- and that the only party trying to change this is the Libertarian Party.

David M. Baker was on hand to pass out campaign literature supporting his candidacy for Colorado's Second Congressional District against incumbent Democrat Mark Udall. The flier promised voters, "**U'dall have more money with the Baker Plan!**"

Steve Funk arrived with a stack of hundreds of custom-made \$10,000 Tax Refund checks promoting the Harry Browne for President campaign. The memo stated the money was "to spend, save, or give away as you see fit." "**When we repeal the Income Tax, the average American family will save at least \$10,000 a year,**" the check declared, asking, "**What will you do with the money?**" The phony checks also referred the curious to several websites, including those of the Harry Browne and David Baker campaigns and the national and Boulder County LP. A facsimile of the check can be seen in the April issue of *Liberty News*.

According to reports, the ever-vigilant Joe Johnson

stayed late into the evening promoting the cause of liberty as the clock ticked toward midnight on the April 17 filing deadline.

Sharing the stage with the LPBC was a "Tax Hemp, Not People Day" duo who were handing out free bags of "Heavenly Hemp" tortilla chips made with hemp flour to passers-by. They supported the Libertarian effort and shared DEA horror-stories with the public.

The protest was peaceful, and postal workers were cooperative and often even cordial. Thanks to all who helped make this year's Tax Day protest an enjoyable and successful Libertarian outreach opportunity.

QUOTABLE...

"The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest possible amount of feathers with the smallest possible amount of hissing."

- JEAN BAPTISTE COLBERT

(MINISTER OF FINANCE UNDER LOUIS XIV)

CO Convention *(continued from p. 6)*

- k **Jerry Van Sickle** was there -- but I couldn't keep tabs on him.
- k **Kevin Wilkerson** talked to the big boys and offered some ideas on their campaigns. He also nominated Dave Baker for U.S. House.
- k **Chuck Wright** was recognized for his many contributions to the LP.

Be sure to check out some great photos from the convention at our website, www.lpboulder.com

LPBC Calendar of Upcoming Events

Every Monday, Noon:

LPBC Weekly Lunch
Healthy Habits Restaurant
Baseline & Foothills, Boulder, CO
Visitors Welcome!

Saturday, April 29 & Sunday, April 30:

Tanner Gun Show
Denver Merchandise Mart
I-25 & 58th, Denver CO
Call Chuck Wright (303) 666-0509

Thursday, May 11, 6:30 pm:

LPBC Board Meeting
Murphy's Grill
28th & Iris, Boulder, CO

Saturday, May 27 - Monday, May 29:

Boulder Creek Festival
Boulder, CO
Libertarian Party Booth
Call Lori VanBuren (303) 823-9695

Saturday, June 3 & Sunday, June 4:

Tanner Gun Show
Denver Merchandise Mart
I-25 & 58th, Denver CO
Call Chuck Wright (303) 666-0509

Saturday, June 10 & Sunday, June 11:

"Crossroads of the West" Gun Show
Holiday Inn
I-70 & Chambers, Aurora, CO
Call Chuck Wright (303) 666-0509

*More info about all LPBC events: Call Ron
Bain, (303) 443-9179*

Note to voting members: Unfortunately, the April Board Meeting Minutes were not available before the newsletter deadline. We hope to include them in the next issue.

Join the Libertarian Party of Boulder County!

Choose one of these options:

___ *Combo Package:* Join the LPBC, LPC, and LPUS for only \$40

___ Join the LPBC for THREE FULL YEARS for only \$36

___ Join the LPBC for the small annual fee of \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Day Phone: _____ Eve Phone: _____

Email address: _____

If you wish to be a voting member, please sign and date the following pledge:

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Choose a membership plan above and enclose a check or money order payable to the LPBC for the amount listed. Send to: LPBC, PMB #427, 2525 Arapahoe Ave., E4, Boulder, CO 80302. *Thank you for your support!*

Libertarian Party Directory

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LIBERTY NEWS

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